

Claims:

1. A formulation comprising at least one ganglioside for mediating inflammation.
2. The formulation according to claim 1 wherein mediating inflammation comprises mediating inflammation of the intestine, retina or neuronal tissue.
3. A formulation according to claim 1 wherein mediating inflammation comprises preventing or treating an inflammatory disease.
4. The formulation according to claim 3, wherein said inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disorders, disorders arising from allergic responses, and diseases involving epithelial surface responses.
5. The formulation according to claim 1, wherein said ganglioside is selected from the group consisting of: GD3, GM1, GM2, GM3, GD1b, NANA, and sialic acid.
6. The formulation according to claim 1 in the form of a supplemented liquid or food.
7. The formulation according to claim 6, wherein said supplemented liquid or food comprises infant formula or infant foods.
8. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the at least one ganglioside comprises about 80% GD3, 9% GD1b, and 5% GM3 on a weight/weight basis.
9. The formulation of claim 1 wherein one ganglioside selected from the group consisting of GD3, GM1, GM2, GM3, GD1b, NANA, and sialic acid, comprises more than 50% of ganglioside content.
10. A method for mediating inflammation in a subject in need thereof comprising the step of providing at least one ganglioside to said subject for oral consumption.

11. The method according to claim 10 wherein mediating inflammation comprises mediating inflammation of the intestine or retina.
12. The method according to claim 10 wherein mediating inflammation comprises preventing or treating an inflammatory disease.
13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said inflammatory disease is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disorders, disorders arising from allergic responses, and diseases involving epithelial surface responses.
14. The method according to claim 10, wherein said ganglioside is selected from the group consisting of: GD3, GM1, GM2, GM3, GD1b, NANA, and sialic acid.
15. Use of at least one ganglioside for preparation of a medicament for oral consumption to mediate inflammation in a subject in need thereof.
16. The use according to claim 15, wherein inflammation comprises inflammation of the intestine, retina or neuronal tissue.
17. The use according to claim 15 wherein to mediate inflammation comprises preventing or treating an inflammatory disease.
18. The use according to claim 15, wherein said ganglioside is selected from the group consisting of: GD3, GM1, GM2, GM3, GD1b, NANA, and sialic acid.
19. A formulation comprising at least one ganglioside for reducing plasma cholesterol level.
20. The formulation according to claim 19, wherein said ganglioside is selected from the group consisting of: GD3, GM1, GM2, GM3, GD1b, NANA, and sialic acid.

21. The formulation according to claim 19 in the form of a supplemented liquid or food.
22. The formulation according to claim 21, wherein said supplemented liquid or food comprises infant formula or infant foods.
23. The formulation of claim 19 wherein the at least one ganglioside comprises about 80% GD3, 9% GD1b, and 5% GM3 on a weight/weight basis.
24. The formulation of claim 19 wherein one ganglioside selected from the group consisting of GD3, GM1, GM2, GM3, GD1b, NANA, and sialic acid, comprises more than 50% of ganglioside content.
25. A method for reducing blood cholesterol in a subject in need thereof comprising the step of providing at least one ganglioside to said subject for oral consumption.
26. The method according to claim 25, wherein said ganglioside is selected from the group consisting of: GD3, GM1, GM2, GM3, GD1b, NANA, and sialic acid.
27. Use of at least one ganglioside for preparation of a medicament for oral consumption to reduce blood cholesterol in a subject in need thereof.
28. The use according to claim 27, wherein said ganglioside is selected from the group consisting of: GD3, GM1, GM2, GM3, GD1b, NANA, and sialic acid.